

THE FLOODS IN SPAIN.

WHOLE TOWNS AND VILLAGES DESTROYED.

Unusual Weather Conditions in Europe—Millions of Dollars' Worth of Vines and Fruit Trees Destroyed in the Spanish Peninsula—Cattle and Granaries Swept Away.

Twice a Deluge.

While in the northwestern portion of the United States, and throughout all that section of America lying west of the Mississippi River, the fall of 1891 was one of unusually dry weather, reports from the Spanish peninsula tell of destructive floods by which whole villages and towns have been destroyed, the crops ruined and hundreds of lives lost.

The weather conditions in Europe, says the Chicago Graphic, like those of the United States since last autumn, have been unusual. While last winter on this side of the Atlantic was unusually mild, on the opposite side of the ocean it was the reverse, and during the entire year the reverse of the weather in the United States has almost uniformly prevailed in Europe.

Consuegra, a town of 7,000 population, sixty miles from the capital of the kingdom of Spain, was almost entirely drowned by heavy rains lasting from Sept. 13 to 18, and the overflow of the mountain streams which run through the valley in which it is located. The storm extended over nearly the entire peninsula and was of unexampled violence. America has been supposed to be the home of the cyclone of recent years, but the storm in Spain outrivals the most severe cyclones of Kansas and the great Southwest.

The grape harvest was ripe and ready for the gathering, as were also the olive and other crops upon which the Spanish peasant depends for his livelihood. Millions of dollars' worth

speaking of the floods at Consuegra, says:

"The province of New Castle, which is the middle and metropolitan province of the kingdom, including both Madrid and Toledo, with the



ALICIA, ON THE RIVER JUCAR.

Tagus flowing across it from east to west, rises south of Toledo into a labyrinth of high bare ridges descending to the river Guadiana, beyond which is the open tableland of La Mancha, Don Quixote's home, a poor and sterile district. Among those highland valleys, some thirty miles from the city of Toledo, is that of the Armagüillo, a small river, encompassed on all sides by mountains; the sole outlet for waters from this basin is at its eastern extremity, below Madrid. In this valley stood the doomed town of Consuegra, built along both river banks the length of a mile. The storm prevailing had driven everybody indoors and prevented notice being taken of the rising of the river—which at nightfall was in its normal channel—in time for a general alarm. The heavy rainfall in the mountains, operating over the whole watershed of the

flood are the following: At Consuegra there is a monastery of Franciscan monks. This and the church attached were flooded. Rescuing what was most important from the church, they waded out with water up to their necks, and then set to work and aided the townspeople, working unceasingly, going to places where few others would venture, and, lastly, began to bury the dead.

One officer in the army, who had gone to Consuegra on sick leave, is said to have saved no less than seventy lives, though wounded three times in the attempt; at last he nearly fainted. Poor fellow! with much difficulty he had saved 4,000 pesos (260) during his career. All this was, with his belongings, in a box which was swept away by the flood. A poor shepherd in the neighborhood rescued twenty-three people.

A man servant was shut up by the waters in a house with twelve other persons. He bravely swam out, and made a raft, saving the rest. After this he went elsewhere, and rescued three children. Wounded out, he would have fainted, but a man on a roof near, which was expected every mo-



VILLAGE OF LORCA, IN MURCIA.

ment to fall, implored his aid. At the risk of his life, he swam out and brought him safely back. Many other heroic acts were performed.

INDIANA'S NEW GOVERNOR.

Brief Sketch of Ira D. Chase, Now Chief Executive of the Hoosier State.

By the death of Governor Hovey, Lieutenant Governor Chase has become chief executive of Indiana. The new executive is 57 years old, a native of New York and of honorable lineage. One of his ancestors, Samuel Chase, was a signer of the declaration of independence. Another, his great-grandfather, Rufus Chase, was one of twenty-four revolutionary patriots who stole after night into the British camp, captured General Prescott and brought him into the American lines. When the war broke out he enlisted in Company C, Ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. In 1862 he was discharged from the army on account of ill-health, and returning to Illinois, he entered upon a course of study for the ministry.

In February, 1886, he was unanimously chosen by his Grand Army comrades as Chaplain of the Department of Indiana. Five months later he received the nomination as Republican candidate for Congress from the Fifth district of Indiana. He made a thorough canvass against Colonel C. C. Matson, but was defeated. In February, 1887, he was elected at the grand encampment of the G. A. R. Department Commander, and was re-elected at the expiration of his term. His nomination as Lieutenant Governor in 1888 was unanimous. He is genial and energetic, a firm Republican, but not narrow in his partisan feeling.

The Moon Flower.

There is an exhibition in New York a species of the rare moon flower, whose existence was supposed to be mythical. It was obtained from an Indian who found it growing in a swamp in the heart of an Amazonian forest, and is the only specimen which has ever reached this country alive. It is a delicate, tenacious vine, covered with small, glossy leaves of a bright and very tender green, climbing to a height of four or five feet, bearing here and there a milk-white blossom of a disk-like shape.

When the moon is at its first quarter, distinct shadow or stain of a deep yellow, which seems rather in than out of the flower and corresponding to the shape of the moon, makes its appearance on this disk, and grows as the planet does, until, when at its full size, the yellow stain covers the entire flower. As the moon begins to wane again this retreats in the same ratio, and finally disappears altogether, to return once more as the new moon is seen to come back.

When the planet sets, the flower closes and does not unfold until the moon rises on the following night. It pursues this course month after month whether placed in the open air or kept in a hothouse, though under the latter circumstance the yellow tint is much paler and more undecided, while the white surface takes on a dingy, unhealthy tinge. The plant subsists almost entirely on air, its roots being barely covered with a little moist gravel.

If a child chokes in trying to swallow a button, penny, or any article of the kind, turn him head downward, holding him by the neck and heels. If the offending article does not roll out of his mouth, administer a dose of castor oil to aid the passage through the stomach and intestines.

MAKE all you can honestly; Save all you can prudently; Give all you can possibly. —Mottoes of John Wesley.

SIGNS OF EUROPEAN DECADENCE.

The Economical and Political Prospects of the Old and New Worlds.

In a recent number of a Paris periodical an American contributor contrasts the economical and political prospects of Europe with those of the United States. He starts with the assumption that the best way to determine a nation's grade of civilization and possibilities of progress is to compare its annual outlay for the education of the mass of its inhabitants with the other expenditures provided for in its budget, and especially with the sums disbursed with a view to war. Beginning with Germany, we find that to schools (exclusive of universities, which are to a large extent maintained by private endowments and fees) only about \$10,000,000 are devoted by the state. Against this insignificant outlay we are to set nearly \$185,000,000 annually disbursed for military and naval purposes. In the dual monarchy of Austria-Hungary the army and navy cost \$64,500,000 a year, while only \$6,250,000 are allotted to education. In Italy the situation is more deplorable, for the subjects of King Humbert have to pay almost \$90,000,000 yearly for the protection of their country, and can only afford to spend \$4,000,000 on the system of public instruction, exclusive of the universities. France is doing more for the next generation, although the sum annually allotted to the public schools (\$21,000,000 in round numbers) is very far from being adequate, and contrasts strangely with the \$151,000,000 called for by the military and naval estimates. Russia assigns to educational appliances nearly \$17,000,000 a year, or more than four times as much as Italy, though she spends yearly for her army and navy \$209,000,000. Even in England the disproportion is striking, for the army and navy cost \$156,000,000 a year, while less than \$24,000,000 are laid out for public education—exclusive of the universities, most of which have funds of their own. The most melancholy exhibit is made by Spain, where the army and navy cost upward of \$100,000,000 a year, whereas the government can only spare \$1,500,000 for the liberal and technical education of the citizen.

Compared with the auspicious prospects of the American republic, the position of Europe may be likened to that of a somnambulist, who, unconscious of his danger, is walking on the steep roof of a house. Appalling will be his awakening, for it will be impossible to avoid plunging into the abyss of war upon the one side, or the unfathomable gulf of the social revolution upon the other.

FREE LABOR IN THE SOUTH.

It Has Proved More Beneficial than the Slave System Could Ever Do.

Prior to the civil war the South based its prosperity on cotton and tobacco and thought that with cheap slave labor it could become the masters of the markets of the world. The South was merely to grow these commodities; its neighbors, foreign and domestic, were to manufacture them. The war came and freed the slave, and history records that free labor has more benefited the South than the slave system could ever do. The cloth, no less than the fiber, is a source of Southern prosperity and the probabilities are that in a few years cotton and tobacco will not be the chief sources of Southern wealth.

Between 1852 and 1859 inclusive the average cotton yield of the South was a little over 3,000,000 bales, except in 1855, when it was under, or 2,932,000 bales. In 1860 the number of bales had risen to 4,823,770, or more than three-quarters of a million in excess of any crop ever before raised in a single year. There were rumors of a coming struggle with the North that season, and they induced extraordinary planting. For a few years after the close of the war the general poverty of the people and the undetermined relations of the whites and blacks caused a reduction of the cotton crop, but in 1875 the yield was over 4,000,000 bales, and in 1880 it was over 5,000,000. Eight years later there were over 7,000,000 bales gathered. In 1889-90 the yield was 7,297,117 bales, averaging 498.14 pounds per bale, against a crop in 1888-89 of 6,939,284, averaging 497.06 per bale. The increased growth of tobacco in the South is shown in the comparative returns of the crops of 1879 and 1883. In the former year Florida raised 21,182 pounds; in the latter, 488,075. In 1879 the crop of Kentucky was 171,120,784; in 1889, 225,403,047. The increase in North Carolina in ten years was 10,000,000 pounds, and only in Alabama, Virginia and Maryland was there a decrease of production during the same period. In these three States other and more profitable industries diverted capital from the raising of tobacco, and they are all infinitely more prosperous now than they were ten years ago, their industries being more diversified.

She Didn't Have the Dress.

Listeners sometimes hear good, if not of themselves. Walking along the Bowery the other night, I came up behind a young couple who were evidently on their way to the theater.

"Ye didn't put on the new dress, Annie," he was saying.

"No," she said, and hung her head. "I thought ye would be liking to wear it when you went out wid me."

"So I would, Pat. But—"

"So! I suppose I ain't grand enough for your fine togery. Ye save that for Mikey Dineen, and lave the old clothes for me."

"Oh, no. Indeed it isn't that—"

"Think I haven't an eye in my head at all at all?"

"Ah, Pat, you are very crool," and

I could hear a tremor in the soft voice that promised rain very soon.

"Well, if it ain't so, Annie, tell me why you put on that old rag to go out wid me in?"

"Why, I ain't got no other, Pat, darling."

"Ain't got no other?"

"No. You see I hadn't the heart to buy it. When I think of the could weather comin' on, an' the barefoot byes and gals in the old shanty at home, an' only a beggar's portion to eat, I just put dress money an' all in the postoffice and sent it over for Christmas. Are—are you mad, Pat?"

There was no reply to this, but under the flaring electric light of a Bowery cheap jewelry shop I could see that two large and homely hands were clasped very tightly together.—New York Herald.

A SHARP VALET.

Ran the Risk of Being Called a Thief to Save His Master's Money.

Many amusing stories are told about Monte Carlo, but the majority are such old-timers that it is hardly safe to repeat them. One, however, has only been told me once this winter, so it may be new, writes a correspondent from the famous gambling resort. It is reported that a poor young Austrian nobleman came here last winter accompanied by his valet. He hurried to the Casino directly from the train, taking with him 6,000 francs, all the money he had in the world. He played for high stakes, and from the first luck ran in his favor. When the place closed, he carried to his room 80,000 francs in winnings. It would have been a small sum to a rich man, but it was a fortune to him. He was so nervous and so afraid of being robbed that he asked his valet, who was an old and trusted family servant, to occupy the same room with him that night, told him exactly how much money he had made, and even counted it over in his presence, so that his valet might be able to swear to the amount, and then showed him where he put it. When he rose in the morning he found that his valet was already up and gone, and with him had gone the 80,000 francs he had won and the 6,000 francs of his original capital. Only a small sum was left—enough to enable him to pay his hotel bill and expenses home. As soon as he was dressed the young nobleman rushed half-distracted to the bureau of the local police and sent out a general alarm, but up to midnight nothing was heard of the fugitive, and it was the opinion of the authorities that he had got away. The next morning the nobleman determined to return home and prosecute his inquiries there. As he stepped aboard the train a dispatch was handed to him. He opened it mechanically and read: "Your valet here with 86,000 francs he says belongs to you." It transpired afterward that the valet had lain awake half the night thinking over his young master's success. He felt certain that on the morrow the young man would attempt to increase his winnings, and that he would lose all as the other players did. He therefore determined to run the risk of being taken for a thief, got up and dressed himself, took the money and left by an early train, turning over the money on his arrival to the young man's father.

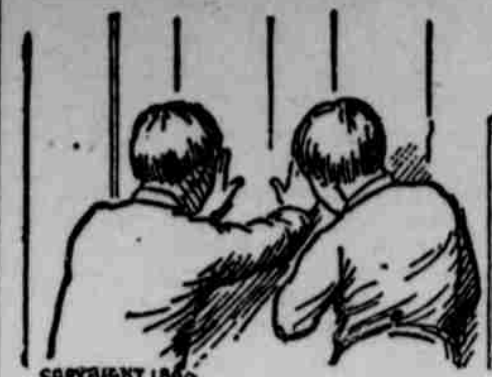
The Algerian Locust.

The following letter from a correspondent in Algiers, has been received: At last the locusts have arrived. For some time past they have more or less been ravaging the Province of Algiers. One fine morning on rising we found them in our midst. I cannot better compare the sight than to a fall of snow; the snowflakes were locusts buzzing about in the bright sunlight. They were disagreeably numerous, invading your rooms, if the windows happened to be open, and flicking you in the face and dropping down your neck while out walking. The children amuse themselves with catching them, attaching a string to their legs, and are much delighted with these playthings; others weave them into long garlands. The Arabs are more practical. Taking off the head, legs, and wings they boil them with salt, and then regale themselves to their hearts' content.

Coming out forty days after the eggs are laid, they grow with amazing rapidity, and devour every green thing that comes in their path. This happens in the "hopping" stage, before they develop their wings. It may be interesting to state that each female locust lays ninety eggs. The eggs are searched for and gathered wherever possible, the government paying a certain sum for every sack. When the young locusts are hatched a general struggle ensues for their destruction. A Cypriote apparatus, which is simply a hedge of cloth two or three feet high, is stretched across the infected district, before which a ditch is dug. The young locusts are then stirred up by beaters—Arabs as a rule—who are furnished with sticks and brushes. The insects hop and hop till they come to the cloth barriers, against which they strike and then rebound into the ditch, and are there destroyed. When the locusts have reached the wing stage they are driven off from the places where they happen to alight by the beating of tom-toms, the discharge of guns, and fire and smoke. Many are driven by the wind into the sea.

Use of a Pig's Tail.

Farmers on the Pacific coast are interested in a discussion of the usefulness or uselessness of a pig's tail. One side argues that it is as useless as the letter p in pneumonia. The other side asserts that the tail indicates the exact physical condition of the animal. If it hang loose it indicates that the pig is not in condition and that its feed should be changed. If it be coiled tightly, it indicates contentment and good health.



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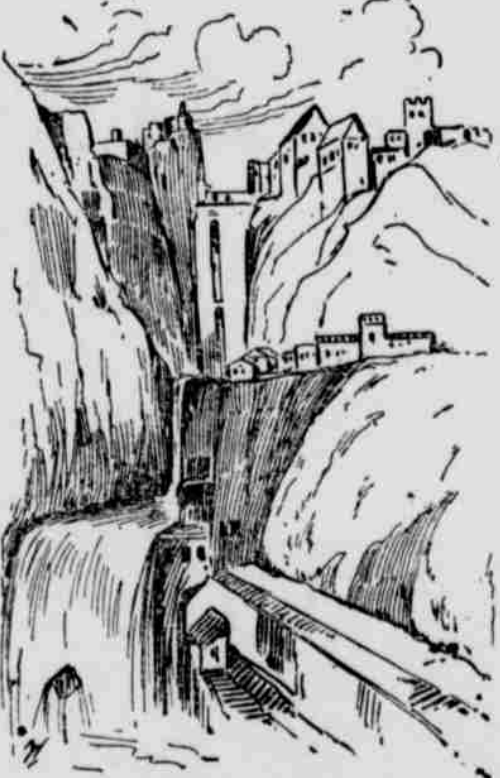
THE STONE BRIDGE AT SARAGOSSA.

of laden vines and fruit trees were totally destroyed, and cattle and granaries were swept away. In Consuegra alone 4,000 cattle were drowned, and their decaying carcasses, lodged among the debris of the houses, are a menace to the lives of the survivors, who, aided by a large corps of engineers and soldiers, are rapidly recovering and giving burial to the unfortunate victims of the disaster. In many cases entire families and their relatives have been drowned, and their lands, which have reverted to the state, are to be re-sown and harvested for the benefit of the people of the valley who have lost their all, the labor, implements and seed being provided by the Government. Many of the interior provinces were cut off from the rest of the world, being entirely surrounded by water, bridges over the streams having been swept away.

The local stock of food in those provinces was almost entirely exhausted, and the sanitary and relief corps were unable to reach them. The government has done all within its power for the relief of the sufferers. The Bank of Spain and numerous private banks have donated a large fund, and an appeal to citizens of other portions of the kingdom has met with generous response. Queen Christina personally superintended the government relief, herself heading a public subscription of charity with a large donation.

The Palace of Aranguez, which is near the old city of Toledo, just north of the flooded districts, was thrown open as an asylum for the refugees

Armagüillo, in three hours turned the river into a lake, which covered the whole middle portion of Consuegra to a depth of 20 feet along the banks, and the width of three quarters of a mile. The majority of the houses were built with mud walls,



RONDA, NEAR MALAGA.

which offered no protection against the water. All the houses along the bank for a distance of 150 feet on each side were either wrecked or washed completely away. The inmates could not escape, but the approach of



THE PORT OF MALAGA.

from the flooded provinces, and several hundred homeless people are being cared for there at public expense until some provision can be made for them.

In Valencia, Andalusia and Almería 4,000 people were rendered homeless, and in Saragossa, Malaga and Murcia the crops were totally destroyed. The Turia, Magro and Jucar Rivers spread far beyond their banks and totally destroyed the valuable rice crops planted in the lowlands, and the town of Alicia suffered heavy losses. In many places there were serious washouts along the railroad tracks, causing the almost total suspension of railroad traffic. The Illustrated News of the World, from which our illustrations are taken,

death was slow and gradual in that dreadful night. Whole families perished together; in one house twenty-eight persons were drowned. In the morning, where the town had been there was a dirty yellow lake, with the roofs and tottering walls of a few houses yet standing, and with a raging current that bore down masses of wreckage and dead human bodies and the carcasses of oxen, mules and other animals. The destruction of property at Consuegra alone is estimated at £400,000. In the valley of the Amagüillo, every other town and village on the banks of that river was flooded to a depth of two feet to six feet, and for some days there was no communication except by boats.

Among the incidents related of the